

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action, dated 29 December 2005, Applicants respond by electing the invention of Group V (claims 25-28, 49), drawn to a method of treating a mammal having or at risk of developing a cardiovascular disease by administering a compound that modulates ABCA1 in vitro lipid transport across a membrane, including linking claims 24 and 41-45, with traverse. For the species of claim 49, Applicants elect coronary artery disease as a species of cardiovascular disease recited in claims 25-28 and 49.

Applicants believe that the claims of Group V should be joined with those of Group I (claims 2-5, 46-48), drawn to a method of treating a mammal having a disorder of cholesterol metabolism by administering a compound that modulates ABCA1 in vitro lipid transport across a membrane. Applicants believe that it was known in the art that there is a correlation between cholesterol levels and cardiovascular disease (reviewed in the application at page 1, line 12, over to page 2, line 26). Consequently, Applicants believe that treatments disclosed in the art for controlling cholesterol and/or HDL levels and those relating to cardiovascular disease, such as coronary artery disease, would be expected to be found within the same or similar search criteria. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that these claims be joined for purposes of examination at this time.

Applicants have also added new claims 57-62. New claims 57-59 are supported in the application at page 1, lines 17-21, where the correlation between cholesterol and cardiovascular disease is noted, and at page 9, lines 23-30, where treatment of low HDL levels are recited and at page 76, lines 1-7. New claims 60-62 track original claims 3-5 as they relate to cholesterol levels.

In addition, Applicants have amended paragraph 1 of the application to include priority to the parent application, now an issued patent.

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Applicants have also included herewith an Information Disclosure Statement with Form 1449 listing all of the art considered in the parent application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants also include copies of all the non-patent references, although these should all be contained in the file of the parent application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of any fees required for this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-0678.

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Respectfully submitted,

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